

FOR THE RELIEF OF COMMANDER CHARLES JAMES  
ANDERSON

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DECEMBER 19, 1924.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and  
ordered to be printed

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Mr. BUTLER, from the Committee on Naval Affairs, submitted the  
following

REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 9112]

The Committee on Naval Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 9112) for the relief of Commander Charles James Anderson, United States Naval Reserve Force, having had the same under consideration, report the same back to the House without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

Commander Anderson was enrolled with the rank of lieutenant commander in 1917 and was given command of an important vessel, the U. S. S. *Maumee*. While in command of that vessel he made several trips abroad, and on December 18, 1918, he was detached from that duty and assigned to duty as assistant supervisor and administration officer of the naval overseas transport service at New York City. In that capacity he administered the operation of approximately 472 ships, with an office force of about 1,100 men and women. He administered this service and demobilized it after the armistice, and had to do with the returning of the ships to their owners.

Commander Anderson had hoped to return to civil life, but was requested by the Navy Department to remain on active duty at naval headquarters, New York City, to organize, administer, and train the Naval Reserve Force of the third naval district, which comprised some 60,000 officers and men. He carried on that work as the executive officer to Capt. John W. Timmons, United States Navy. On a trip across from Queenstown, Ireland, in September, 1917, during a heavy storm, a sea knocked Commander Anderson down on the iron deck and caused an injury to his spine which has developed into chronic arthritis, with considerable bony changes in his hip joints that are considered to be irreparable.

The act making appropriations for the naval service for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1922 (Public No. 35), provides—

That all officers of the Naval Reserve Force and temporary officers of the Navy who have heretofore incurred or may hereafter incur physical disability in line of duty in time of war shall be eligible for retirement under the same conditions as now provided by law for officers of the regular navy who have incurred physical disability in line of duty: *Provided, however,* That application for such retirement shall be filed with the Secretary of the Navy not later than October 1, 1921.

Commander Anderson did not apply for retirement under the above act as he did not desire retirement. He had no desire for anything from the Government, believing that the medical doctors of the Navy were correctly advising him and that he would eventually recover.

The following is an extract from a fitness report signed by Capt. John W. Timmons, United States Navy, who was in charge of the United States Naval Reserve Force of the third naval district of New York:

An unusual capable officer. He is of great value to the Navy. It is hoped that his services may be retained where he now is. He has a thorough and comprehensive grasp of United States naval force activities both from the standpoint of the reservist and from the standpoint of the regular Navy. It would be a positive loss to the Government if he were not retained in his present position or in a similar position.

Captain Timmons had requested Commander Anderson to continue on active duty in view of the encouragement received from the medical officers of the Navy. When in May, 1924, he learned that his disability was permanent he wrote the following letter:

NAVY YARD, NEW YORK, May 8, 1924.

Capt. R. H. LEIGH,

*Bureau of Navigation, Washington, D. C.*

MY DEAR CAPTAIN LEIGH: After the war, while I was in charge of the Naval Reserve of the third naval district, with the headquarters at New York, Commander Charles J. Anderson, United States Naval Reserve Force, at my request, remained on active duty and was detailed as my assistant. He remained on this duty until I went to sea, and then continued with Capt. B. A. Long, my relief.

My opinion of Anderson's exceptional ability and usefulness to the Navy is reflected in the fitness reports which I gave him at the time. This was in 1919, 1920, and 1921.

During the war, before coming to me, Anderson had been ill. It was definitely and positively decided that his illness was "in line of duty and not due to own misconduct." I know the case thoroughly. But while with me he again suffered from the old cause. Often he was in the office, in and out of office hours when he should have been caring for his health.

The time came when if he did not apply for retirement the date set by law after which he could not retire would pass. He asked my advice as to what to do. I asked if he thought he could ultimately recover. He said he thought so. I then told him that I considered his work at my office of great importance and that I hoped he could see his way clear to remain. He did remain and stuck to the job and did very valuable work.

Now he finds himself up against it. He is not well and ought to be retired. He has been continually on active duty since the beginning of the war. His case therein and therefore decidedly differs from the others that the department may have to pass upon now and in the future.

I think it right for Anderson to be retired by special act of Congress. Congressman Butler, the chairman of the Naval Affairs Committee, I am reliably informed, has introduced a bill in Congress to authorize Anderson's retirement.

I write you this information, thinking that it may be of use to you in advising any recommendation in Anderson's case, that the department may be called upon to make. If I have written to the wrong man, won't you please pass this letter to the right one?

I hope you can see fit to help him. I shall always feel bad about it if Anderson misses retirement, for I can not help thinking that his pluck and my wish for his services to my office and to the Navy, when he could have been retired under law, were largely the cause of the unfortunate predicament in which he now finds himself.

Yours sincerely,

JOHN W. TIMMONS,  
*Captain, United States Navy.*

Commander Anderson states that at the time Captain Timmons and Admiral Huse urged him to continue on active duty that he had offers in civil life that would pay him a great deal more than his Navy pay. His interest in the service, which had been considerably increased by virtue of his service in the World War, interest which dates back to the Spanish-American War, in which he served, caused him to give up that larger remuneration on the outside in order to serve his Government. Commander Anderson took great pride in his work, and it has been said that what little Naval Reserve Force we have at this time was largely due to his efforts.

#### SERVICE OF COMMANDER CHARLES JAMES ANDERSON

Name: Charles James Anderson.

Born: Atlantic City, N. J.

Age: Forty-seven years.

Occupation: Master mariner.

Official residence: 2313 West Fourth Street, Chester, Pa.

Volunteered and served as seaman and acting boatswain's mate (first class) in the United States Navy during Spanish-American War. Honorably discharged at termination of war.

Enrolled in United States Naval Reserve Force August 17, 1917, with rank of lieutenant commander; served on board U. S. S. *Maumee* from August 22, 1917, to December 18, 1918, commanding this vessel from November 19, 1917, to December 18, 1918, while engaged on transport duty.

Assistant district supervisor and administration officer, naval overseas transportation service, third naval district, from December 18, 1918, to November 15, 1919.

Promoted by selection to the rank of commander May 17, 1919.

Assistant to officer in charge of the organization, administration, and training of the Naval Reserve Force, third naval district, from November 15, 1919, and on which duty now assigned.

While serving on board the U. S. S. *Maumee* on a return voyage to the United States from Queenstown, Ireland, was knocked down by a heavy sea and sustained an injury which, together with a combination of things—exposure, etc.—has developed into a condition of chronic arthritis of the knee and hip joints directly attributable to active duty performed during the World War.

Made consistent efforts to effect remedy by submitting to various treatments prescribed by naval and civilian doctors, and at great personal expense, and for the most part during hours off duty in the hope of effecting a cure without loss of services to the Government.

November 7, 1923, was compelled on account of continual and increasing suffering to enter United States naval hospital, Brooklyn, N. Y., for treatment.

December 20, 1923, was given medical survey by a board of the United States Navy medical officers, who unanimously recommended that patient be transferred to the Army and Navy General Hospital at Hot Springs, Ark., for further treatment. This recommendation was approved by commanding officer of the naval hospital, commandant third naval district, and Bureau of Medicine and Surgery; however, on account of a technicality, the Bureau of Navigation could not transfer patient out of third naval district.

February 2, 1924, commanding officer United States naval hospital, Brooklyn, N. Y., recommended to Bureau of Navigation that patient be granted four months' leave of absence in order to enable him to go to Hot Springs, Ark., for treatment at his own expense, he having had only 18 days' leave during his entire period of continuous active duty from August 17, 1917.

The medical officers attached to naval hospital have agreed after many exhaustive examinations and consistent treatments that patient will not be physically fit for further duty, and were the status of the patient that of an officer in the regular Navy they would recommend that he be retired.

Navy Department records will show that a number of officers of the Naval Reserve Force who served on active duty during the war were, on account of physical disability, placed on the retired list of the Navy, in accordance with legislation enacted by Congress.

The following is a statement of the medical officer who treated, Commander Anderson in 1921:

This is to certify that Commander Charles James Anderson, U. S. N. R. F. was under my care while I was stationed at headquarters third naval district, New York, lieutenant (M. C.) United States Navy. At this time, 1921, he received treatment for chronic arthritis and neuritis incurred in the line of duty during the World War. These treatments were given after consultations with other medical officers who believed as I did that they would result in complete recovery.

CARL O. FISCHER, M. D.

No. 631 Macon Street, Brooklyn, N. Y.

DECEMBER 12, 1924.

EXTRACTS ON REPORTS ON FITNESS OF COMMANDER CHAS. J. ANDERSON, U. S. N. R. F-3, ON FILE IN BUREAU OF NAVIGATION, NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON. D. C.

Period: From August 22, 1917, to October 1, 1918.

Station: U. S. S. *Maumee*.

Duties: Under instructions to command.

Remarks: Lieut. Commander Chas. J. Anderson, United States Naval Reserve Force, is under instructions preparatory to relieving the present commanding officer. He has shown a fine spirit of subordination and a desire to be in every way fitted to take over the command. Mr. Anderson has been standing a regular deck watch at sea and in port, in addition he has been the assistant navigator of his own volition. He appears thoroughly competent to command this ship.

Reporting Senior: Lieut. Commander William V. Tomb, United States Navy, commanding U. S. S. *Maumee*.

Period: From October 1, 1917, to November 19, 1917.

Station: U. S. S. *Maumee*.

Duties: Under instructions to command.

Remarks: Lieut. Commander Chas. J. Anderson, United States Naval Reserve Force, relieved me of the command, U. S. S. *Maumee*, on November 19, 1917. Mr. Anderson has conducted himself so as to obtain the good will of officers and men. He has attended strictly to his duties and has made the most of his opportunities. The *Maumee* oiled an escorting destroyer in a gale on the trip across the Atlantic, and the suggestion that the destroyer be towed astern while oiling originated with Mr. Anderson who was placed in immediate charge of the operation. This method was most successful due largely to the good seamanship of Lieutenant Commander Anderson.

Reporting Senior: Lieut. Commander William V. Tomb, United States Navy, commanding U. S. S. *Maumee*.

Period: From November 19, 1917, to March 31, 1918.

Station: U. S. S. *Maumee*.

Duties: Commanding officer.

Remarks: Lieutenant Commander Anderson is a high type of commanding officer, capable of commanding any size vessel and of administering her in an officer-like manner. One of the best captains we have.

Reporting Senior: Lieut. Commander Robt. T. Merrill, 2d, United States Navy, district supervisor naval overseas transportation service.

Period: From April 1, 1918, to September 30, 1918.

Station: U. S. S. *Maumee*.

Duties: Commanding officer.

Remarks: One of the very best of naval overseas transportation service captains. He is very familiar with Navy methods and procedure and carries them out aboard his ship. He is in all respects an excellent commanding officer.



Reporting senior: Lieut. Commander Robert T. Merrill, 2d, United States Navy, supervisor Naval Auxiliary Reserve.

Period: From October 1, 1918, to December 18, 1918.

Station: U. S. S. *Maumee*.

Duties: Commanding officer.

Remarks: One of the best naval overseas transportation service commanding officers familiar with Naval Regulations and anxious to carry them out. Above the average professionally.

Reporting senior: Lieut. Commander Robt. T. Merrill, 2d, United States Navy, supervisor Naval Auxiliary Reserve.

Period: From December 18, 1918, to March 31, 1919.

Station: Naval overseas transportation service, New York, N. Y.

Duties: Administration officer.

Remarks: One of the very exceptional officers of the reserve, qualified for any duties afloat or ashore in his line.

Reporting senior: Lieut. Commander Robt. T. Merrill, 2d, United States Navy, supervisor Naval Auxiliary Reserve.

Period: From April 1, 1919, to June 2, 1919.

Station: Naval overseas transportation service, New York, N. Y.

Duties: Assistant district supervisor and administration officer.

Remarks: Commander Anderson has been on active duty in the capacity of assistant supervisor and administration officer of this district. He is an accomplished executive fully qualified for his work. He is most dependable and very capable; in fact, far above the average in knowledge, details, and principles involved. He would have few peers in the work on which he is engaged.

Reporting senior: Commander Chas. Boone, United States Naval Reserve Force, district supervisor naval overseas transportation service, New York, N. Y.

Period: From June 2, 1919, to September 30, 1919.

Station: Naval overseas transportation, New York, N. Y.

Duties: Assistant district supervisor and administration officer.

Remarks: Commander Anderson is a very exceptional officer. I have been brought into contact with a very large number of Naval Reserve officers in my duties as supervisor naval overseas transportation service at New York and without doubt I have found Commander Anderson to be by far the best officer with whom I have been associated. I recommend him unqualifiedly for higher rank and for confirmation in his present rank.

Reporting senior: Commander M. H. Simons, jr., United States Navy, district supervisor naval overseas transportation service, New York, N. Y.

Period: From October 1, 1919, to November 15, 1919.

Station: Naval overseas transportation service, New York, N. Y.

Duties: Assistant district supervisor and administration officer.

Remarks: Commander Anderson has served as assistant supervisor and administration officer under me since my reporting last May. I consider him without exception the best Naval Reserve officer with whom I have come in contact. He is very efficient and well versed in naval methods. I recommend him for the next higher rank and for confirmation in his present rank. In event of future hostilities he is competent to command afloat or as district supervisor, naval overseas transportation service.

Reporting senior: Commander M. H. Simons, jr., United States Navy, district supervisor, naval overseas transportation service, New York, N. Y.

Period: From November 16, 1919, to March 31, 1920.

Station: Headquarters, third naval district.

Duties: Assistant to officer in charge, Naval Reserve Force (inactive).

Remarks: A most capable officer in every respect. Is valuable in running a large office force. Recommend promotion when in line with the policy of the Navy Department.

Reporting senior: Capt. John W. Timmons, United States Navy, officer in charge, Naval Reserve Force (inactive).

Period: From April 1, 1920, to September 30, 1920.

Station: Headquarters, third naval district.

Duties: Assistant to officer in charge, Naval Reserve Force (inactive).

Remarks: He is an exceptionally able, conscientious, and hard-working officer and has marked administrative ability. He is very firm and is a good disciplinarian. Recommended for promotion when due. He would do well as the New York supervisor of Naval Auxiliary Reserve. He is well acquainted in New York City and Brooklyn, and personally knows a large number of class 3 officers and merchant ship officers.

Reporting senior: Capt. John W. Timmons, United States Navy, officer in charge Naval Reserve Force (inactive).

Period: From October 1, 1920, to March 31, 1921.

Station: Headquarters, third naval district.

Duties: Assistant to officer in charge, Naval Reserve Force (inactive).

Remarks: An unusually capable officer. He is of great value to the Navy. It is hoped that his services may be retained where he now is. He has a thorough and comprehensive grasp of United States Naval Reserve activities, both from the standpoint of the reservist and from the standpoint of the regular Navy. It would be a positive loss to the Government if he were not retained in his present position or in a similar position.

Reporting senior: Capt. John W. Timmons, United States Navy, officer in charge Naval Reserve Force (inactive).

Period: From April 1, 1921, to September 30, 1921.

Station: Headquarters, third naval district.

Duties: Assistant to officer in charge, Naval Reserve Force (inactive).

Remarks: He is an officer of unusual intelligence, zeal, and ability, both in an office of large size and importance and in practical matters in connection with the handling of ships. He is an unceasing worker. I recommend him for promotion when due. His work has been in connection with 60,000 naval reservists inactive and active for training—8 Eagle boats and 4 sub chasers.